

REMARKS

General:

Claims 1-3, 7-16 and 18-24 were pending in this application at the time of the final Office Action. Claims 1-2, 7-16 and 18-24 stand rejected. Claim 3 is considered allowable but is objected to.

Claims 3, 8, 11-13, 18 and 20-22 have been amended herein. Claims 9, 10 and 14 have been canceled. Claims 1-3, 7-8, 11-13, 15-16 and 18-24 are pending in the application after the present amendment. No new matter has been added.

Allowable subject matter:

Claim 3 was indicated as defining allowable subject matter, but was objected to as dependent from a rejected base claim. Claim 3 has been re-written in independent form including all the features of previous claim 9, and is believed to be allowable.

35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-2, 7-16, and 18-24 stand rejected as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,010,007 (Moren et al.). Within this group of claims, claims 9, 10 and 14 have been canceled. Claims 1-2, 7-8 and 11-13 have been made dependent, directly or indirectly, from claim 3, against which this rejection was not raised. The claims as amended, being based on allowable claim 3, are believed to be allowable over Moren for the same reasons as claim 3.

Claims 18, 20, 21 and 22 have been amended to recite the feature of previous claim 3. These claims are also believed to now be allowable over Moren for the same reasons as claim 3.

Claims 15-16 and 23-24 are dependent from claim 21 and are believed to be allowable over Moren for the same reasons as claim 21.

Amendment after final:

All claims now pending in this application include, by dependence or amendment, the feature of previous claim 3, which had previously been indicated as allowable over Moren. It is therefore respectfully submitted that no substantial new consideration is required, and that the present amendment should be entered after final. (At the very least, the amendments reduce the issues for an appeal.)


Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the examiner's rejections and objections, and an early notice of allowance of claims 1-3, 7-8, 11-13, 15-16 and 18-24, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES E. JOHANSON *ET AL.*

BY:



THOMAS V. DURLING
Registration No. 30,480
DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH
One Logan Square
18th and Cherry Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19103-6996
Telephone: 215-988-3307
Fax: (215) 988-2757
Attorney for Applicants